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Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Sisterhood Is Global Institute

(Special status)

Aims and objectives

The Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI), an international non-governmental organization, seeks to deepen the understanding of women's human rights at the local, national, regional, and global levels, and strives to strengthen the capacity of women to exercise their rights. SIGI's primary objectives are to inform women of the basic rights guaranteed to them under international human rights conventions and to empower them to attain those rights; increase public awareness and concern about human rights abuses committed against women; facilitate the direct participation of women from the "global south" in international debates concerning their rights; and conduct and facilitate research, and provide training models for women from the developing world in the areas of human rights education, communication, and leadership. SIGI has individual members in over 60 countries and maintains a network of more than 1,300 individuals and organizations around the world. SIGI'S geographical membership has increased to include members from Azerbaijan, Malaysia, and Uzbekistan.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and United Nations conferences/ meetings

Members of SIGI and the Executive Director represented the Institute at the June 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, where they participated in a panel entitled "Global Feminism: Finding Similarities, Seeking Solutions". SIGI representatives also attended the International Conference on Population and Development (September 1994, Cairo), and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (June 1996, Istanbul).

In September 1995, the officers and steering committee as well as other members of SIGI attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, where they organized and participated in numerous panels and acted as official governmental delegates. SIGI members were also active participants at the NGO Forum preceding the Conference. SIGI members also attended the following regional preparatory conferences — Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Conference (June 1994, Jakarta), Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Conference (September 1994, Buenos Aires), European Regional Preparatory Conference (October 1994, Vienna), Western Asian Regional Preparatory Conference (November 1994, Amman), and African Regional Preparatory Conference (November 1994, Dakar). Moreover, SIGI presented a list of recommendations for inclusion in the draft Platform for Action to all members of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in March 1995 in New York. The recommendations were compiled as a result of three international preparatory conferences convened by SIGI on issues that were not adequately stressed in the regional preparatory conferences. The three SIGI conferences were "Religion, Culture, and Women's Human Rights in the Muslim World", held in Washington, D.C. (9–10 September 1994), "Refugee Women and Children in Times of Conflict, held in Athens (15–17 September 1994), and "Integration of Women in Commerce and Industry: An Agenda for the Twenty-first Century", held in Lusaka (25–27 October 1994).

SIGI has regularly attended the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Various members of SIGI represented their Governments at the Commission meetings. SIGI has also participated vigorously in non-governmental organization consultations and other activities that parallel the sessions of the Commission. At the thirty-eighth session, held in March 1994, SIGI presented a workshop "Women's voices and the global media: strategies for inclusion/models for change" and a panel discussion "Refugee and displaced women: strategies for demilitarization and peace for the twenty-first century". SIGI members were also active participants in the thirty-ninth session in March 1995, where SIGI presented a symposium "Challenge to peace, human rights, and civil institution-building: meeting the needs of uprooted women", and in the fortieth session, held in March 1996.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies

SIGI, in cooperation with UNHCR, organized a conference on the issue of refugee women and children in times of conflict, in Athens, in September 1994.

Other activities

Through alerts, publications, and human rights education programmes, SIGI has been supportive of various United Nations resolutions relating to human rights at the national, regional and international levels.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

Throughout the period under review SIGI has consulted with numerous officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities

With the support of UNIDO and other funding institutions, in 1995 SIGI produced and published *Women to Women Dialogues: Strategies for the 21st Century*, (consisting of recommendations of the three international preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

2. Howard League for Penal Reform

(Special status, granted 1947)

Statement of purpose

The Howard League takes a lead in the development of policy for prisons and the treatment of offenders, based on impartial and informed research. It seeks to educate the public and professionals in the United Kingdom and internationally about good practice in the penal system. It has a membership of 3,000 individuals and institutions mainly in the United Kingdom but also in 20 or so other countries. It is funded entirely from voluntary contributions.

Participation in United Nations meetings

Over the past four years the Howard League has regularly sent representatives to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna. It has had a permanent representative in Vienna. It has been active in promoting the application of norms and standards, worked to develop policies on violence against women, and to encourage the development of good practice with regard to juveniles with regard to the various United Nations standards. Sue Wade, Council member of the Howard League and Deputy Chief Probation Officer in Hampshire, attended the European preparatory meeting for the ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

Sue Wade and Frances Crook, Director of the Howard League, attended the Congress held in Cairo in 1995. An ancillary meeting to discuss juvenile justice and the application of United Nations standards was organized by the Howard League and attended by 100 people representing Governments and non-governmental organizations. It was addressed by non-governmental organizations from the United States, Argentina, Egypt, Israel and the United Kingdom.

Dick Whitfield, Chair of the International Committee of the Howard League and Chief Probation Officer in Kent, attended the International, Scientific, Professional and Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in Italy in 1995.

David Mathieson, Council member of the Howard League and Chief Probation Officer in Merseyside, participated in the preparatory expert meeting for the International Training Workshop on Probation.

Activities

In 1997 the League undertook a technical assistance mission to Bosnia specifically to advise on the treatment of prisoners post-release. Jack Holland, a member of the Howard League International Committee and Assistant Chief Probation Officer in Hampshire, went twice to Bosnia with Christian Kuhn, the Howard League's representative in Vienna. They visited prisons and met prison governors and governmental ministers in order to explore, among other issues, how to implement United Nations standards.

The Howard League has written reports on human rights in the administration of justice and, in particular, on the treatment of children and juveniles in detention. It has submitted papers and letters to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

A Howard League conference in London in 1995, on the treatment of children involved in the criminal justice system, was addressed by Thomas Hammarberg on perspectives of the Convention. This speech generated a good deal of public interest and television coverage in the United Kingdom.

The Howard League has also been involved in developing training for prison staff in cooperation with the United Nations.

Relevant publications of the League

Darkness and Light: Justice, Crime and Management for Today (London, 1996); *Drug Couriers: A New Perspective* (London, 1996); *Child Offenders: UK and International Practice* (London, 1995); *Banged up, Beaten up, Cutting up* (London, 1995); *Families Matter* (London,

1994); *The Howard League Good Practice Guide on Working with Young Offenders* (London, 1994).

3. Human Rights Advocates

(Special status, granted 1985)

Human Rights Advocates (HRA) has 20 years of experience working on international human rights issues at the United Nations and elsewhere. The goal of the organization is to promote fundamental human rights worldwide through the use and further development of international human rights and humanitarian law. Its primary activities are to educate law students and others about the human rights bodies of the United Nations and to facilitate the attendance of students at meetings of those bodies to further their learning process.

HRA has also intervened in cases in the United States where international human rights law would be helpful. It has filed *amicus* briefs in cases involving violations of customary international laws, degrading treatment and punishment in prisons, the death penalty and affirmative action.

HRA continues to have no paid staff and an annual budget of less than $8,000. The funding comes largely from local law schools and modest membership dues and goes mainly to pay for the production and mailing of its newsletter and notices of its public education events and for stipends for students who travel to Geneva to participate in the meetings of United Nations human rights bodies.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies or conferences

(a) 1994, Commission on Human Rights. Written interventions: E/CN.4/1994/NGO/27; E/CN.4/1994/NGO/23; E/CN.4/1994/NGO/30; E/CN.4/1994/NGO/50. Oral interventions: agenda items 3, 11, 12;

(b) 1995, Commission on Human Rights. Written interventions: E/CN.4/1995/NGO/36, joined in intervention on human rights and environment. Oral interventions: items 11, 12 and 13;

(c) 1996, Commission on Human Rights. Written interventions: E/CN.4/1996/23/Add.1 and 2; item 13. Oral interventions: item 10;

(d) 1997, Commission on Human Rights. Written interventions: E/CN.4/1997/NGO/9; E/CN.4/1997/NGO/48; E/CN.4/1997/NGO/79; E/CN.4/1997/NGO/54; E/CN.4/1997/NGO/71; item 14. Oral interventions: item 13;

(e) 1994, Subcommission. Written interventions: Agenda item 15; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/NGO/10(a); Joint Declaration on Methods of Work of Subcommission. Oral interventions: items 20, 17 (b) and 18;

(f) 1995, Subcommission. Written interventions: item 11. Oral interventions;

(g) 1997, Subcommission. Written interventions: E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/NGO/10;

(h) 1996, Commission on the Status of Women. Attendance only;

(i) Fourth World Conference on Women. Written statements: NGO/80, NGO/79. Joined Joint NGO Intervention on Women's Human Rights (with 71 others).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

(a) Cooperation with the International Labour Organization on migrant worker rights issues;

(b) Participation in the Commission on Sustainable Development.

4. Human Rights Watch

(Special status, granted 1993)

Introduction

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world. It stands with victims and activists to prevent discrimination, to uphold political freedom, to protect people from inhumane conduct in wartime, and to bring offenders to justice. It investigates and exposes human rights violations and holds abusers accountable. It enlists the public and the international community to support the cause of human rights for all.

HRW began in 1978 with the founding of its Europe and Central Asia division (then known as Helsinki Watch). Today, it also includes divisions covering Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East. In addition, it includes three thematic divisions on arms, children's rights, and women's rights. It maintains offices in New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, London, Brussels, Moscow, Sarajevo, Dushanbe, Tashkent, Tbilisi, Rio de Janeiro, Kigali and Hong Kong. HRW is an independent, non-governmental organization, supported by contributions from

private individuals and foundations worldwide. It accepts no governmental funds, directly or indirectly.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and United Nations meetings

During the period under review (1994–1997) HRW attended each session of the Commission on Human Rights, submitting numerous written statements and making oral interventions. Each year HRW also attended the annual sessions of the Commission's Working Group on the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. HRW also regularly attended meetings of the Third Committee of the General Assembly. In 1995 and 1997, HRW attended the sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, submitting written statements and making an oral intervention in 1995. In addition, in 1994, HRW submitted a written statement to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Every year since 1995, HRW has attended the Commission on the Status of Women.

Representatives of HRW attended several United Nations world conferences: the International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo in September 1994; the Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing in 1995; and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in Istanbul in June 1996.

In 1996, HRW participated in the work of the Economic and Social Council's Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations. Since 1997, HRW's United Nations representative has served as Vice-Chair of the International Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Human Rights, in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

In 1996, HRW was invited by the United Nations to participate in the Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, held in Geneva by the Centre for Human Rights and the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), and convened for the purpose of drafting a set of guidelines to assist States in formulating their HIV/AIDS policies.

HRW also participated in the regional conference to address the problems of refugees, internally displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the Commonwealth of Independent States and relevant neighbouring States, held by UNHCR in May 1996 in Geneva, and subsequently was invited by UNHCR to be part of an editorial group drafting the NGO Guide to International Standards on Refugees and Human Rights. The group met in Geneva in October 1996, April 1997, and July 1997. In addition, HRW was invited to participate in the Steering Group of the CIS Conference, and the NGO preparatory meeting, held in Geneva in July 1997. In July 1997, at the invitation of UNDP, a HRW representative participated in the UNDP Conference on Good Governance, held in Addis Ababa.

HRW frequently provided information to the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights. It regularly attended sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, submitting information and responding to the Committee's enquiries. It also attended sessions of and provided information to the other human rights treaty bodies.

HRW frequently consulted with UNICEF on a number of issues, including, most prominently, child soldiers, child labour and police violence against street children. HRW regularly provided human rights materials to United Nations agencies and departments, such as UNHCR, UNDP, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, often in response to specific requests.

HRW attached great importance to the work of the ad hoc International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda. It maintained working contacts with the staffs of the two tribunals and published reports focusing on aspects of their work. It also followed closely and supported the work on the creation of an international criminal court.

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

HRW regularly advocated on behalf of the implementation of human rights resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly. It conducted its advocacy both in several of the countries it regularly monitors and in international forums. Every year during the period under review, HRW conducted advocacy on behalf of the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions regarding landmines.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

HRW maintained regular contacts with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, providing information and expertise on a range of issues. As an organization based in New York, it frequently consulted with members of different

departments of the Secretariat and participated in numerous meetings at United Nations Headquarters. It also regularly participated in the monthly briefings of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs with non-governmental organizations.

In September 1997, a representative of HRW, a co-founding organization of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, was invited to join Secretary-General Kofi Annan and other world leaders at a press conference at United Nations Headquarters marking the conclusion of negotiations of the ban treaty.

5. Indigenous World Association

(Special status, granted 1985)

The aims of the Indigenous World Association are to provide education in the application of international human rights initiatives, law and processes and to promote the rule of law domestically and internationally in relation to the rights of indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and uprooted peoples, and to inform the concerned groups and the general public in various countries about the achievements and work of the United Nations system in those fields. The means of achieving these aims include: documentation and information in English and Spanish; organization of conferences, seminars, forums, and course curricula; emergency meetings on urgent situations; cooperation with other non-governmental organizations in the field; consultations with Governments, international and intergovernmental organizations and organs, with private institutions and religious bodies, regarding the rights of vulnerable peoples; participation in all relevant United Nations forums. The co-directors of the organization are Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Petuuche Gilbert (member of the Acoma Tribe, New Mexico, and member of the governing body of the Acoma Tribal Council). The organization is represented at United Nations Headquarters by Rosamel Milliman (Mapuche, Chile), who also represents the organization in South America. At the United Nations offices in Geneva, the representative is Ulises Rosas (Quechua, Perú). Other permanent representatives include Nganeko Minhinnick (Maori elder, New Zealand); Mililani B. Trask (Governor, Ka Lahui Hawai'i); Daniel Flores (Nahua, El Salvador), representative to Central America and Mexico. The Indigenous World Association was founded in Central America in 1981, was constituted as an association under the laws of the State of Geneva, Switzerland, in 1984, and received consultative II status with the Economic and Social Council in 1985.

Since its founding the organization has sent indigenous delegations to the following United Nations meetings: Commission on Human Rights and its Working Group on the [Indigenous] Draft Declaration; the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and its Working Groups on Indigenous Populations and on Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, all held annually in Geneva. Included in the organization's delegations to those meetings are representatives of indigenous communities that the organization trains to work within the Economic and Social Council to promote the human rights of indigenous peoples. The first trainee was Rigoberta Menchú Tún, Quiche leader from Guatemala, later Nobel Laureate (1992) and Special United Nations Ambassador for the Year of the World's Indigenous People (1993) and the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995–2004). The co-director of the Indigenous World Association accompanied and trained Ms. Menchú during the relevant 1982–1983 meetings of the United Nations, including the eighteenth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the first session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations; the 1982 session of the General Assembly's Third Committee, and the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The organization participated in the planning meetings in New York and Geneva for the Fourth World Conference on Women, and sent five representatives from five Latin American, African, and Asian countries to the conference in Beijing (September 1995), and was instrumental in planning and operating the indigenous centre (tent) at the parallel NGO conference.

The organization is included in the Special List of non-governmental organizations which cooperate with the International Labour Organization in Geneva. The ILO stipulates that only "non-governmental international organizations whose aims and objectives are in harmony with the spirit, aims and principles of the ILO Constitution and whose scope and capacity allow them to make a substantial contribution to the work of the ILO can enter into a cooperative arrangement with the ILO through its Special List". Since its founding, the organization has cooperated closely with UNHCR, particularly in Central America and Mexico, observing the situation of indigenous refugees. The co-director of the organization was an honorary guest of UNHCR at its regional conference on Central American refugees.

The Indigenous World Association provides information to Governments and non-governmental organizations in support of all resolutions concerning indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, and migrant workers. The organization has regularly consulted and cooperated with numerous officials of the United Nations Secretariat, in particular at the United Nations offices in Geneva — the Centre for Human Rights and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The organization closely cooperated with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations during its tenure of existence. Since its founding, the organization has paid particular attention to the increase in indigenous communities becoming refugees in neighbouring countries and internal refugees within their own States. In this regard, the organization has cooperated with a number of institutions in field-level collaboration and joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars and studies, including the Refugee Studies Programme at Oxford University, the Latin American Studies Association, and the Secretariat of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues in Geneva. To promote education about indigenous refugees, the organization has contributed five articles to the UNHCR magazine, *Refugees*, on the history of indigenous displacement during the colonizations of the western hemisphere. Since most of the indigenous representatives of the organization hold doctorate or law diplomas and teach at the university level, Indigenous World Association also specializes in developing curricula and materials for higher education. The organization was invited to consult with The Global Center (formerly Globalvision, directed by Daniel Schecter, which produced "South Africa Today" during the 1980s) on its video project "Rights and Wrongs Educational Media Project", and the co-director of the Indigenous World Association is an Advisory Board member. The organization also consulted in 1997 on the prize-winning, full-length documentary film, "Blacks and Jews", produced by Snitow-Kaufman Productions.

The Indigenous World Association was instrumental in establishing the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (1993) and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995–2004), and participated in all the activities generated thereby.

6. Institute for International Economic Cooperation and Development (ICEPS)

(Special status, granted 1993)

Aims and purposes of ICEPS

The Institute for International Economic Cooperation and Development (ICEPS) is a non-profit organization founded in 1966 and made up of prominent members from the world of politics, culture and business. In 1990 the Institute joined the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes as institutional member; in 1993 it was recognized as a non-governmental organization in consultative status (Category II) with the Economic and Social Council; in 1995 it was granted the status of internationalist body of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in accordance with Law No. 948/1982.

The goal of ICEPS is to promote the economic development of developing and emerging countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent States, providing information, research, advice and technical assistance relating to international economic cooperation and development. ICEPS carries out cooperation activities and exchanges information with United Nations organizations: ECLAC, FAO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, United Nations Information Centre for Italy, Malta and the Holy See; and with other international organizations — i.e., World Bank, the Development Centre of OECD, the World Trade Organization, and Italian/European Research and Training Institutes.

Research, study and training activities

A project for convening a round table on environment and development was carried out on behalf of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Directorate General for Development Cooperation, from 1993 to 1994. The project was designed to spread information on the guidelines resulting from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), both at the national and international levels. The initiative also helped identify possible new guidelines for Italian cooperation, to be adopted for implementing initiatives related to environmental protection/impact and sustainable development. The activities were to draft the document "Environment and development: international cooperation" (first draft), describing methodologies adopted and initiatives started up by bilateral/multilateral cooperation

organizations, in the light of the guidelines resulting from UNCED; to organize and convene the International Round Table on Environment and Development; to present the document to the National Research Council in Rome; to prepare and distribute the second, updated draft of the document and the *Proceedings of the Round Table*.

In order to support the Latin American Ministries of Foreign Affairs, a programme relating to the training of Latin American Chancellery officials was carried out on behalf of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 1993 to 1995. The objective was to improve the capability of Latin American diplomats to manage economic relations with Europe. The programme organized three meetings aimed at debating problems of economic relations and identified the diplomatic responses and political behaviours necessary to improve economic relations between Europe and Latin America. It completed two studies, in Spanish, "Foreign direct investment and technological transfer between Europe and Latin America", presented at the workshop for Latin American diplomats, held in Santiago de Chile on 27–28 June 1994; and "The European Union trade policy: the global strategy competition policy and the external security policy". Following the above initiatives, in 1996 ECLAC issued a document prepared in collaboration with ICEPS: "Economic relations between Latin America and the European Union: the role of external services" (edited in Spanish).

The study "Economic integration of developing countries in the global economy", including remarks and statistical data, was issued in April 1996, in time for the ninth session of UNCTAD (Midrand, South Africa, 27 April–11 May 1996).

The paper "Principles and actions of United Nations Conferences relating to food security" was prepared in conjunction with the activities promoted in Italy, as host country, to support the FAO World Food Summit (Rome, 13–17 November 1996) and distributed during the summit. It synthesizes the main guidelines resulting from previous United Nations world conferences relating to poverty eradication and food security and emergency measures for solving such problems.

"The European Union trade policy towards developing countries within multilateralism, regionalism and marginalism" was issued in December 1996. It was designed to analyse the present debate on the multilateral liberalization of trade and regional economic integration promoted by the European Union and the actions the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD intended to undertake to create an international economic setting oriented towards the economic integration of less industrialized countries.

Organization of conferences and participation in United Nations events

The International Round Table on Environment and Development was organized by ICEPS. It was held in Rome on 17 and 18 January 1994 at the National Research Council. It was attended by representatives of the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, OECD, the European Union, the Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Environment, non-governmental organizations, environmental organizations, and the academic and business world.

The workshop for Latin American diplomats, held in Santiago de Chile, 27–28 June 1994, within the framework of the programme referred to above, was attended by representatives of the Latin American Ministries of Foreign Affairs and European experts. It focused on foreign direct investments and technological transfers.

A seminar to present the second draft of the paper entitled "Environment and development: international cooperation" and the *Proceedings of the Round Table on Environment and Development: Summary and Results* was held at ICEPS on 20 October 1994. It involved institutions, organizations, non-governmental organizations etc., interested in subjects related to environmental protection/impact, sustainable development and international cooperation, so as to identify possible follow-up activities.

ICEPS participated in the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995. A representative of ICEPS took part directly in the debate and got in touch with other international organizations and non-governmental organizations with which to start collaboration activities and collected all the documentation made available during the Summit.

On 6 April 1995, ICEPS organized a conference in cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, for Italy, Malta and the Holy See, to present the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, and distribute to the participants the Italian version, translated by ICEPS, of the following documents: Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; "An agenda for development: development and international economic cooperation" (report of the Secretary-General to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, 6 May 1994); "Analysis of the main issues to be developed at the World Summit for Social Development and actions to be adopted to reach the Summit's objectives, in conformity with the General

Assembly resolution 47/92 (report of the Secretary-General). The Conference was chaired by Jacques Baudot, Coordinator of the World Summit for Social Development, and attended by Nadia Younes, Director of the United Nations Information Centre, for Italy, Malta and the Holy See, Giorgio Testori, head of the Italian delegation to the Summit, and other prominent representatives of the Italian political and diplomatic world. On this occasion ICEPS Report No.1 (April 1995) was issued containing "Main questions emerging during the World Summit for Social Development".

ICEPS participated as observer in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (FAO, Rome, Italy, 29 September–10 October 1997), and attended the NGO Forum, convened on 6 October, during the event. On that occasion ICEPS delivered to FAO for distribution "Coordination of international aid within IGADD as an instrument for coordinating development policy in East Africa", issued by ICEPS in 1992.

Information activities

Since 1994, ICEPS has helped to spread information on the main activities implemented and planned by the Economic and Social Council, and, in general, by the United Nations system among actors with which ICEPS maintains regular relations and among institutions interested, at the national level, in United Nations activities but without access to adequate and updated means of information.

ICEPS has been collecting United Nations documentation on a regular basis in order to set up a United Nations archive of documents on various subjects, available on United Nations Web sites and forwarded particularly by the Economic and Social Council, UNCTAD, ECE, and other departments/programmes/agencies. This has made it possible easily to get access to United Nations information and documents and has spread information on United Nations activities/initiatives/events among institutions concerned and ICEPS members. The archive includes the documentation of ICEPS' library. It is used for organizing meetings and drafting studies. The objective is easy and immediate access to updated documentation/information concerning the specific United Nations agencies, conferences, programmes and commissions with which ICEPS maintains regular relations.

Since April 1995, the Institute has been publishing the *ICEPS Report*, a monthly newsletter focusing on the main events and activities planned and/or implemented by the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union and other international organizations, and on the most interesting subjects related to international cooperation. ICEPS receives and collects, on a regular basis, updated documentation on resolutions, meetings, world summits, projects and initiatives undertaken by the United Nations and other international organizations, which is used in preparing the monthly *Report*, distributed free of charge to institutes, actors and agents concerned. The objective is to foster at the national level the dissemination of information related to activities of international organizations, particularly the United Nations, and deal with the main subjects covering international cooperation. Among the issues of interest to the United Nations are the following:

April 1995, No.1: Main questions resulting from the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995;

August 1995, No. 5: Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 4–15 September 1995;

October 1995, No. 7: A proposal to reform the United Nations;

January 1996, No. 1: FAO commitment to World Food Security and poverty reduction; February–March 1996, No. 2: Security and cooperation policy in the Mediterranean, the United Nations and Italian commitment;

June 1996, No. 3: Globalization and liberalization: the reform of UNCTAD; January–February 1997, No. 1: The World Food Summit and the reform of FAO;

April 1997, No. 2: Survey on United Nations perspectives. Interview of the Secretary-General of ICEPS on 5 March 1997, at the Foreign Affairs and Community Commission of the Parliament.

The *Reports* are distributed to non-governmental organizations; the Italian permanent representation to the United Nations, the United Nations Information Centre in Rome; research and development cooperation institutes; the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; commissions of foreign affairs of the Italian Parliament, ICEPS members.

Activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

The United Nations document "Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations: origins, milestones and achievements", issued in one volume in September 1995, was translated into Italian, published and distributed. The document was meant to inform Italian public opinion and institutions/organizations concerned about the overall activities planned to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary.

An international conference, Security and Cooperation Policy in the Mediterranean, the United Nations and Italian commitment, was held in Siracusa (Sicily, Italy) on 9 March 1996, within the framework of the activities implemented with the support of the National Committee to Commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. The objective was to identify new guidelines for Italian foreign and security policy in the Mediterranean Basin, starting from a wide integration with the actions of United Nations agencies and their reform, considering the new policy of the European Union relating to the establishment of a new Euro-Mediterranean Partenariat. Following the conference, the proceedings were prepared and distributed.

7. Institute of Cultural Affairs International

(Special status, granted 1985)

The Institute of Cultural Affairs International is a non-governmental organization concerned with the human factor in world development. The Institute of Cultural Affairs International assists the activities and operations of national member Institutes in 28 nations. The Institute has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The Institute of Cultural Affairs International conducts programmes in partnership with government, business, and the non-governmental sectors to facilitate the development of people, communities, and organizations which contribute to the growth of peace, economic and social development, and civil society.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

The organization's representative attended the World Summit for Social Development, 6–12 March 1995, in Copenhagen, Denmark. The organization's representative attended the Fourth World Conference on Women, 4–15 September 1995, in Beijing, China. The organization's main representative for New York attended the forty-ninth and the fiftieth DPI/NGO Conference Programmes, 10–12 September 1996, and 10–12 September 1997 in New York.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

The organization's main representative in New York assisted the UNDP/Programme Development and Support Division in designing and facilitating a retreat on operationalizing sustainable human development. The organization's main representative in New York worked with the UNDP/Department of Personnel to design and develop curriculum and a training manual for the "programme approach" to development. The organization's main representative in New York worked with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and the mission in Lagos, Nigeria, to design and deliver training in the "programme approach" to development for UNDP and governmental representatives from Nigeria, Ghana, and Sierra Leone. The organization's main representative in New York worked with UNDP to deliver staff training for the Management Skills Mirror Programme for UNDP general staff.

8. Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)

(Special status, granted 1989)

Introduction

The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) seeks to be the primary international professional association, organized on a worldwide basis, dedicated to the promotion and development of the practice of internal auditing. It is committed to providing, on an international scale, comprehensive professional development activities, standards for the practice of internal auditing, and certification; researching, disseminating, and promoting to its members and to the public throughout the world knowledge and information concerning internal auditing, internal control, and related subjects; establishing meetings worldwide in order to educate members and others as to the practice of internal auditing as it exists in various countries throughout the world; bringing together internal auditors from all countries to share information and experiences in internal auditing and promoting education in the field of internal auditing.

The IIA motto is "Progress through sharing".

To accomplish its mission, the Institute has four primary objectives: to be a recognized authority; to be an acknowledged leader; to be a principal educator; and to be a professional organization (effectively using the skills of volunteers and staff).

IIA provides the basis of the profession of internal auditing in standards for the professional practice of internal auditing; code of ethics; statement of responsibilities; and certification (Certified Internal Auditor — CIA).

Membership growth

The organizational components of IIA are chapters or national institutes. National institutes are self-sustaining organizations with anywhere from 300 to 4,000 members. The greatest membership growth has taken place in the past few years with the addition of many new affiliates outside North America. Membership grew from 48,410 in 1992 to 63,000 at the end of 1997. Approximately one half of the members are in North America (United States, Canada and the Caribbean). The other one half are from outside North America.

The following new chapters/national institutes were established in 1994–1997 (* Indicates creation or change of status to national Institute): Costa Rica, Ghana, Nicaragua (1994); IIA Germany* (1995); Algeria, Chile, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Karachi (Pakistan), Senegal, Sucre (Bolivia), Turkey, U.S. Pacific (1996); IIA Austria*, Botswana, Caracas (Venezuela), Fiji, Greece, Guatemala, Mississippi Gulf Coast (United States), Salem (United States), IIA Thailand*, Poland (1997).

IIA activities held in conjunction with the United Nations or United Nations agencies

Between 1995 and 1997, IIA presented three training sessions on communication techniques, the internal auditor as consultant, fraud prevention, and operational auditing to auditors at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. In January 1997, IIA presented a training session for auditors at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. In April 1997, IIA presented a training session for auditors at the International Labour Office in Geneva, Switzerland. In September 1997, Karl Paschke, Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, United Nations Secretariat, was guest speaker at a joint meeting of professional auditors and accountants, co-sponsored by the IIA and hosted by the World Bank.

IIA participation in United Nations meetings

Since 1994, IIA leaders have participated at each of the annual meetings of the United Nations auditors.

Other

In 1994, UNDP adopted the IIA *Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*. These *Standards* are being used by most of the United Nations agencies.

9. Inter-African Committee (IAC) on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children

(Special status, granted 1993)

The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children is an African non-governmental organization set up in 1984 with the aim of combating harmful traditional practices, particularly female genital mutilation (FGM) but also childhood marriage and nutritional taboos, while at the same time promoting positive traditional practices. Since its creation, IAC has set up national committees (affiliates) in 26 African countries. These national committees function in most cases as national non-governmental organizations with a varying number of members, ranging from 10 to more than 100, composed of health professionals, representatives of national and international non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies, and concerned individuals.

Through its national committees IAC works on the grassroots level, implementing programmes of information and education, training of trainers, reorientation of circumcisers, operational research etc. Funding is received mainly from United Nations agencies, European Governments and international non-governmental organizations.

In addition to consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, IAC enjoys observer status with the Organization of African Unity and official relationship with the World Health Organization. An agreement of understanding was signed between IAC and the Economic Commission for Africa in 1985. In 1995, IAC received the United Nations Population Award.

IAC representatives took part in the following United Nations meetings:

(a) *1994*. UNICEF Inter-Regional Consultation on the Girl Child, India, 10–16 February. A presentation was made by the IAC President on eradication of harmful traditional practices for the empowerment of girls; NGO Consultation, New York, 3–4 March; Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 7–8 March; Second United Nations Regional Seminar on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, Sri Lanka, 4–8 July. IAC presented a paper on violence against women as a traditional practice; International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September. IAC delivered a statement on harmful traditional practices at the plenary

session and organized a workshop on FGM; NGO Forum and the Fifth African Regional Conference on Women, Dakar, 12–23 November. IAC organized two workshops at the NGO Forum and the IAC President made a statement relating FGM to violence against women at the main conference.

(b) *1995*. Thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, March. The IAC President made a statement on traditional practices as forms of violence against women; World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March. IAC organized a workshop on FGM in the western world; Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September. IAC organized a workshop at the NGO Forum on harmful traditional practices. The IAC President took part as a panellist in the UNICEF special celebration of girls.

(c) *1996*. UNESCO Conference on Violence and Women, Paris, 4 March. IAC presented a paper on violence against women; UNFPA Consultation Meeting on FGM, Addis Ababa, 27–29 March.

(d) *1997*. WHO Consultation with non-governmental organizations on the New Global Policy, Geneva, 2–3 May; Fourth International Conference on Health Promotion, Jakarta, 21–25 July; UNICEF Sub-Regional Consultation on Female Genital Mutilation, Eritrea, 24–27 September; WHO Technical Consultation on Female Genital Mutilation, Geneva, 15–17 October.

IAC also regularly attended the meetings of the OAU Council of Ministers and the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

In addition, during these four years, IAC took an active part in the meetings of the following bodies: WHO Executive Board, World Health Assembly, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Status of Women, Commission on Human Rights, Special Committee of International NGOs on Human rights, and various NGO working groups based in Geneva.

IAC representatives were invited to take part in a number of international conferences related to women and health, making statements and presenting relevant background documents.

In 1994, IAC organized its third Regional Conference on Traditional Practices (11–15 April, Addis Ababa), under the theme "Harmful traditional practices: the way ahead". In 1997, the fourth IAC Regional Conference on Traditional Practices was held (Dakar, Senegal, 17–23 November), in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Africa. These two meetings were attended by a large number of IAC members and other partners as well as by observers from concerned United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations.

Since its inception, IAC has been advocating for the implementation of various conventions related to the health of women and children and to all forms of violence against women, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It has been actively involved in the drafting of resolutions and declarations pertaining to the protection of women and children against harmful traditional practices — e.g., Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/251, on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, the Vienna Declaration (on human rights), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, World Health Assembly resolutions WHA46.18 and WHA47.10, and the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action. IAC works closely with the United Nations special rapporteur on traditional practices, Halima E. Warzazi, and with the United Nations special rapporteur on violence, Radhika Coomaraswamy.

IAC has been receiving financial contributions from UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank towards its activities. UNFPA initiated and funded a training seminar for IAC members in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in July 1995. In 1997, a joint IAC/UNICEF evaluation project was carried out in four African countries, funded by UNICEF. In consultation with IAC, UNHCR has set out a policy on harmful traditional practices and issued guidelines for its field staff to eradicate these practices, taking into account the highly sensitive nature of this issue.

10. Inter-American Housing Union (UNIAPRAVI)

(Special status, granted 1989)

The Inter-American Housing Union (UNIAPRAVI) is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization that brings together public and private housing finance institutions in the Americas. It was founded in Caracas in 1964 and has 124 member institutions (including savings and loan associations, housing banks, mortgage banks, multi-purpose banks with a mortgage portfolio, housing funds, housing Ministries and Secretariats, construction companies, housing developers and so on) in 21 countries in the Americas. Its principal goal is to promote the strengthening of housing finance and promotion

institutions in the region, including governmental bodies responsible for defining housing policy, with a view to stimulating mobilization of resources for housing and access to housing in the Americas.

The work carried out by UNIAPRAVI during the period under review has had as its main objective the consolidation of UNIAPRAVI as an *information centre and source of ideas* concerning housing policy and finance. Thanks to this effort, UNIAPRAVI has achieved widespread recognition in the Americas as an organization that brings together and encourages the exchange of experience between the housing finance systems of the various countries and promotes interaction with the governmental authorities responsible for defining housing policy and the legal and institutional frameworks for development in the housing sector. Towards that end, it offers a range of specialized activities and services such as organizing international meetings, carrying out studies, providing training and technical assistance, producing and distributing publications, compiling and disseminating statistics and compiling and collecting specialized documentation.

The activities carried out by UNIAPRAVI are intended to meet the new policy and operational requirements of housing sector institutions with a view to enhancing the role of the housing sector as a factor for economic growth and social development. The central, underlying idea in this regard is that the sectoral development model must be compatible with the overall economic development model. Accordingly the aim is to encourage market mechanisms and private-sector investment in the housing sector while at the same time strengthening the role of the State as subsidiary facilitator with a view to ensuring equality of opportunity in order to achieve housing solutions for all segments of the population, including the poorest. Thus the point is to influence the implementation of housing policy so as to ensure that the housing sector becomes a factor promoting higher growth, job creation, greater market integration and poverty relief, all of which issues are on the agenda of the United Nations.

From a thematic point of view, and bearing in mind the increasing globalization of economies, in various forums UNIAPRAVI has put forward possible methods and areas for foreign investment in housing finance in Latin America, including debt issuance, purchase of shares in mortgage institutions, investment in technology and securitization of mortgage portfolios. In effect, the creation of secondary markets in mortgages is a subject to which increasing attention is being paid in the housing finance sector in the Latin American countries, where strong legislative, institutional and enabling initiatives are being taken towards that end. Indeed, various Latin American countries have been implementing or enhancing this mechanism.

Access to housing for the lowest-income sectors is another key factor in the housing policy agendas of the Governments in the region. Thus, direct housing subsidy programmes are being either consolidated or established as a key mechanism for expanding access to housing for the poorest groups, for whom the profit-oriented workings of the market do not provide enough options. A number of Latin American countries already have programmes of this kind, which are producing very satisfactory results, whereas other countries are adopting specific measures to implement what was already a policy decision. Indeed, at an international seminar held by UNIAPRAVI in the Dominican Republic in July 1997, the Dominican President announced that a programme of direct housing subsidies was about to be implemented in that country.

To ease access to housing for the low-income sectors, the State must also develop and enhance the mechanisms for the legal regularization of spontaneous and informal settlements. This central idea has been repeatedly put forward by UNIAPRAVI, given that in some Latin American countries over 50 per cent of urban properties and 90 per cent of rural properties are not covered by formal title deeds and therefore such housing and land cannot be used as security for purposes of obtaining a mortgage. Regularizing legal possession of this significant housing stock could create an enormous opportunity for expansion in the housing finance sector. In that connection, some Latin American countries already have large-scale Government-sponsored programmes for issuing title deeds and registering informal premises.

UNIAPRAVI believes that active participation by the private sector in housing development and finance is a key factor for the viability and effectiveness of housing policy. Therefore, the public sector can play a catalytic role by helping to promote stable and profitable housing finance systems, the introduction of new products that satisfactorily meet demand, the introduction and adoption of banking regulations and, most of all, by promoting a housing policy model that takes the long-term view and that is based on a partnership between the public and private sectors.

We should like to draw attention to UNIAPRAVI's active participation in all the Regional Meetings of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, a forum for which the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is the secretariat; this participation has enabled our organization to enhance its

interaction with those authorities in order thereby to provide leadership in ensuring dissemination and implementation of new initiatives and norms for the sector, targeted on countries in the region which have emerging housing systems.

Generally speaking, these approaches and ideas have been put forward in the various countries in which UNIAPRAVI's ideas have become established. They have been disseminated through three main channels: firstly, through international meetings organized, promoted or attended by UNIAPRAVI; secondly, through documents and publications prepared by UNIAPRAVI; and, thirdly, through the provision of technical assistance and advice requested by members. This has enabled UNIAPRAVI to channel the knowledge and experience of the countries that are more developed in the housing and housing finance area towards countries which are relatively less developed but which are making major efforts to overcome the housing shortage afflicting them.

11. Inter-American Statistical Institute

(Special status, granted 1952)

Objectives

The Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) is a professional organization whose purpose is to promote statistical development in the American region. It seeks the following objectives: development and strengthening of the statistical profession; promotion and dissemination of advances in statistical theory and methods; improvement in the methodology for production of both governmental and non-governmental statistics; promotion of measures aimed at improving the comparability and availability of economic and social statistics among the nations of the region; and cooperation with national and international organizations in activities aimed at statistical improvement in the region.

The Institute was created on 12 May 1940, and since 1950 maintains relations of cooperation and coordination with the Organization of American States (OAS). The Institute is an affiliated member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), another non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Membership in the Institute is individual (238), institutional (12 affiliated members), and ex-officio (34).

Participation in the activities of the Economic and Social Council

The Secretariat of the Institute regularly submitted basic information for the preparation of reports destined for the sessions of the Statistical Commission.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

The secretariat of the Institute provided assistance in 1994 to the Statistics Division of FAO in developing the bases for the organization of a new group on agricultural statistics for the Latin American region, to replace the one that had been jointly maintained by the Institute and FAO for more than three decades.

The Technical Secretary attended the meetings of Directors of Statistics of the Americas convoked by ECLAC and held in Santiago, Chile, in October 1994 and October 1996.